specify his grudges, Klembovsky admitted that the situation in the Fifth Army was well under control, and he recognized reluctantly that Vilenkin, the chairman of the Fifth Army's committee, was not a German spy. But the Twelfth Army, he declared, was in hopeless confusion.

Very different were the two army commanders whom we met at the front headquarters. General Danilov of the Fifth Army was a true leader of his men. He knew his army and identified himself with its officers and enlisted men. His remarks were brief, but one felt that his thoughts ranged far beyond the technical questions we were discussing. General Parsky of the Twelfth Army was less sophisticated—an elderly man with short-cropped gray hair and a tanned, deeply creased face. With no decorations on his uniform, he looked like a sergeant with a general's insignia on his shoulders. He was newly appointed to the Twelfth Army and during the conference he listened and seemed to memorize every word but said little himself.

THE TWELFTH ARMY AND ITS COMMANDER

From Pskov, Stankevich and I went to the headquarters of the Twelfth Army in Riga. The city was located fairly near the front line and had a mixed population. Landowners of German origin formed its upper crust; the middle classes were Russian, and most of the workers, Lettish. Long before the revolution the military command had formed Lettish *tirailleur* battalions—a half-volunteer organization that comprised some thirty thousand men. They were reputed to be good soldiers but refused to recognize the authority of the committee of the Twelfth Army, the Iskosol, and were suspected of leftist leanings.

Several regiments of the Twelfth Army were apparently dominated by the Communist party. One of them, the Novo Ladoga Riflers, had joined the party openly and was publishing a Bolshevist daily newspaper under the title *Pravda Okopov* (*Pravda of the Trenches*). The commander of the army, on the insistence of the Iskosol, had shut down the paper after the July riots in Petrograd, but the regiment remained highly unreliable. There was also a Ukrainian division that insisted on being transferred to the south to defend the Ukraine and threatened to leave its positions if its demand was not granted. Stankevich proposed that I assume responsibility for the Twelfth Army and stay in Riga while he returned to Pskov and concentrated on front affairs and the Fifth Army.

My first task was to establish relations with the Iskosol. I had often